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CLEANING METAL FURNITURE

- Take care of your furniture—it will look nicer and last longer.
- Clean furniture helps prevent disease and keeps insects out of your house.

WASHING

Often dirt and fingerprints can be rubbed off metal and plastic with a damp cloth. If this doesn't work, wash metal furniture with detergent and water to get rid of dried-on food and stubborn dirt and grease. (Fig. 1) Do it this way:

- Add detergent—1 to 2 tablespoons to 1 quart of water to make suds.
- Pick up some of the thick suds off the top of the sudsy water with a damp sponge or cloth. Don't let the sponge get dripping wet.
- Use the sudsy sponge or cloth to rub the furniture. Wash a small part at a time.



Fig. 1

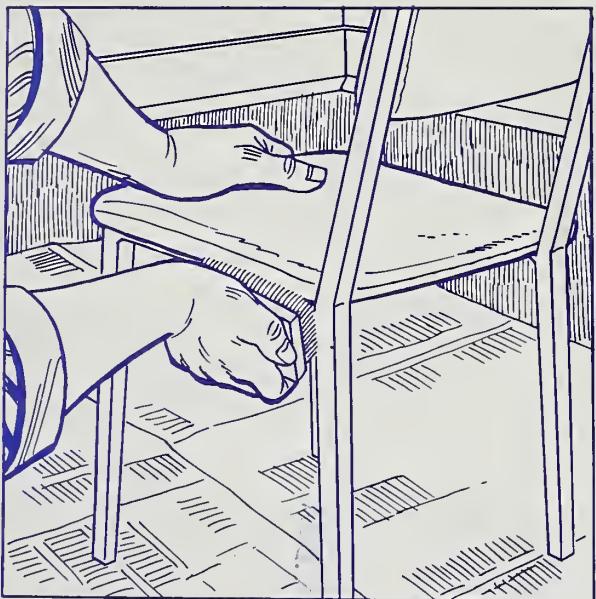


Fig. 2

- Dip a brush into the sudsy water. Shake off the extra water. Use the brush to clean seams and grooves and get into these hard-to-clean places. (Fig. 2)
- Use a clean damp cloth or sponge to wipe up the suds as soon as you finish washing each small area.
- Don't forget to wash the underside of the furniture—especially on such things as kitchen tables.
- When the whole piece of furniture is clean, dip a sponge or cloth in clean water, wring it out, and wipe the whole piece of furniture again. Finally, rub it with a dry cloth to prevent water spots.

WAXING AND POLISHING

If you want to use wax, use a white cream wax—the type made for kitchen appliances. This wax also has cleaning power and helps make your furniture shine.

Pour a little wax on a damp cloth. Rub it on a small area of the furniture. (Fig. 3) Polish with a clean, dry cloth before the wax has dried.

Put wax on only once or twice a year.

These methods can also be used to clean and polish laminated plastic tops on counters or furniture (usually table tops or chests of drawers).

This publication was adapted by Glenda Pifer, Housing Specialist, from "How To Clean Metal Furniture"—B2313, by Cooperative Extension Service, University of Wisconsin. Issued October 1973.



Fig. 3